

## Roses & raspberries

By: *North County Times Editorial Staff* – October 2, 2005—(see highlighted area below regarding the Community Re-entry Project)

**The 'Money Where His Mouth Is' award** - A rose to Rocky Chavez, principal of the School of Business and Technology in Oceanside, for personally securing a \$278,000 line of credit to keep the struggling charter school afloat for another year. The outspoken City Council member said he was guaranteeing the credit with property he owns in Oceanside.

The charter school, whose students have scored well on standardized tests as they shoulder a full academic course-load and gain work experience, is homeless while it waits for repairs on the aging building it hoped to move into this summer. For now, students are trying to learn in temporary "classrooms" throughout the city, most crammed into an overcrowded room at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Not surprisingly, 25 students have backed out, further denting the school's finances.

Into this breach stepped Chavez. Say what you want about his management style or political acumen, there's no question he cares about his students and his school. He's bet more than a quarter of a million dollars on their success.

**The 'Where's the Public?' award** - A raspberry to San Diego Gas & Electric Co., which got its publicity effort off to a lousy start by giving very short notice to folks in Rancho Penasquitos. The utility wants to build a giant power line from somewhere in North County through Imperial County. Still smarting from the community uproar and subsequent defeat of its Temecula power-line scheme, utility executives wisely decided to hold a series of public workshops this time before they unveiled a route.

Still, they waited until Thursday night to announce their schedule of meetings. The first public event is today ---- 8 a.m. ---- at the Doubletree Golf Resort, 14455 Penasquitos Drive in Rancho Penasquitos. Public participation is important; barely three days' notice is a problem.

**The 'Leg Irons to Leg Up' award** - A rose to the people and organizations participating in a new countywide program that connects ex-inmates with jobs. The state Prison Industry Authority picked San Diego County to launch what will soon be a statewide program providing hardworking inmates with jobs and other assistance that, after release, will help keep them out of jail. The project builds upon solid foundations built by the county Sheriff's Inmate Services Division and the National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. Among the local agencies backing the effort are the Carlsbad, Escondido and Oceanside police departments, Supervisor Bill Horn, several county departments and some of the region's biggest employers.

Other North County employers interested in hardworking employees whose success all society has a stake in can learn more about the project at a conference Oct. 20 in San Diego. More information can also be found online at [www.cce.csus.edu/cts/PIA/index.asp](http://www.cce.csus.edu/cts/PIA/index.asp).